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# CONFERENCE *connection*

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SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 22, 2021

## Special Edition General Synod 2021

How do you get over 2700 people online and keep people engaged for 8 days? That is what General Synod was this year! Worship, Keynote Speakers, Workshops, Educational Intensives, Plenaries, Committee Work, Hearings, Optional Events, Recognitions, Youth Program, and even an Exhibit Hall – all of these were done virtually over the 8 days. This meant a lot of “screen time” for delegates and visitors but also experiencing elements that would have been difficult to duplicate in-person.



Our delegates (Grant Carodine, Kriss Choi, Eddie Colf, Haley Lerner, Jody Thornton, Tyler Ung, Ugena Whitlock) missed the opportunity to spend time physically caucusing together. However, we met twice during the week and our group texts were very active throughout the week!

I am grateful for the dedication of Rev. Katie O'Dunne who served as a chaplain for the Youth program and Rev. Heather Fosburgh who trained many of those who served as hosts for various Zoom activities. It was exciting to see The Shalom Spiritual Center (Snellville, GA with Rev. Salome As-Salaam, pastor) recognized as a new developing faith community since the last GS.

I was also delighted that we had a total of 56 individuals from our SEC congregations who attended General Synod. Southeast Conference was third in the number of attendees vs the number of churches ratio.

More information about the Business and Resolutions that were

considered will come in future *Conference Connections*. However, I wanted you to hear some initial reflections of our General Synod delegates. Keep reading for more!

Blessings, Char

## General Synod 33

### Reflections from our Synod Delegates

Our delegates to General Synod 33 share reflections of their time in this biennial denominational gathering. [Visit our website](#) to read from Grant Carodine (Spirit of the Cross, Huntsville, AL); Kriss Choi (Open Community, Decatur, GA); Eddie Colf (Brookmeade Congregational, Nashville, TN); Haley Lerner (Kirkwood UCC, Atlanta, GA); Jody Thornton (Community Congregational, Montgomery, AL); Tyler Ung (Circular Congregational, Charleston, SC); Ugena Whitlock (Pilgrimage UCC, Marietta, GA). [View the reflections on our website.](#)



### Synod News from the UCC Newsroom

- [Virtual General Synod able to connect delegates with each other and the church](#)
- [Synod delegates 'deplore' conversion therapy, call for its ban](#)

- [Synod changes decision, passes resolution on occupied Hawaii](#)
- [Traci Blackmon reelected as associate general minister, Justice and Local Church Ministries](#)
- [Synod resolves to address gender safety and equity](#)
- [Synod celebrates newly started congregations](#)

## News from the Conference Office

### Annual Meeting Workshop and Worship Recordings

**NEW!** Did you miss a workshop during our 55th Annual Meeting that you really wanted to attend? Were you unable to join us for worship as we gathered virtually? Fret no more, as both worship services, the Juneteenth presentation, and ALL the workshop videos are now available for you to watch at your leisure. You can find them [here on our website](#).

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### Clergy Zoom Connections for July

- **An Hour of Conversations and Prayer**  
Tuesday, July 27 - 11:00 a.m. Eastern (10:00 a.m. Central); Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/479440102>
- **Especially for Specialized Ministers**  
Tuesday, July 27, 2021 - 9:30 a.m. Eastern (8:30 a.m. Central)  
Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/354744689>

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### Re-Opening of Churches – Conversation for all Church Leaders

- **Monday, July 26 - 7 pm Eastern/6 pm Central**  
Many churches are moving to in-person worship. This is an opportunity to learn about each other's experiences, recommendations, etc. We invite all Moderators, Church Leaders, and Clergy to be part of the conversation. [REGISTER](#)



## Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2021. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers.

### Week of July 18

- Forgiving Heart Church; Columbus, GA
- Randy Hammer
- Thomas Query
- Ed Sunday Winters
- Patricia Keeler

### Week of July 25

- Spirit of the Cross, Huntsville, AL
- Lacey Brown
- George Hartz
- Gerald Kummer
- Will Rabert, Jr

## Churches in Transition

First Congregational, Montgomery AL; First Congregational, Savannah GA; Trinity Congregational, Athens AL; Rush Memorial, Atlanta GA; United Church of Cookeville, Cookeville TN; Holy Trinity Community Church, Nashville TN

## News from the Wider Church



**ORDER TODAY!**  
**2021 STEWARDSHIP  
THEME MATERIALS**

### "Rooted in Love" Materials for Fall Stewardship

New stewardship materials are available to help tell your story while making a request for financial support. The materials include a variety of items to run an effective campaign, including bulletin inserts, pledge cards, and graphics. A practical campaign guide provides support for leaders who are running their first campaign and also offers suggestions if you're looking to customize stewardship messages to your own setting.

## Trainings and Conferences





## Make Plans to Attend the Retired Servants Retreat

Join fellow retired UCC ministry servants for the Tenth Annual retreat, October 11-13, 2021 in Blowing Rock, NC. The event promises intellectual stimulation, spiritual enlightenment, reflection, and renewing of friendships and/or making new friends. This event is for retired UCC clergy, missionaries, volunteer ministry workers and spouses of the Southeast and Southern Conferences of the United Church of Christ. The retreat is co-sponsored with Blowing Rock Conference Center.

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## Insurance Board offers free webinar on employment practices

To help churches navigate the challenges of being an employer, the Insurance Board will present a webcast focused on considerations for general employment practices Thursday, July 29, at 2 p.m. EST. Please join us as Attorney James Abbott, Insurance Board's Director of Claims Administration Cy McFarlin and Senior Claims Analyst Monroe Moore discuss claims trends and employment practices liability. [REGISTER](#)

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## UCC Webinar: 'False Solutions: Climate Policies That

## Fail'

Some proposed climate policies have been described as false solutions by climate activists and policy analysts because they fall short in meeting the moral demands of science, equity and justice. Learn what faith communities need to know in this webinar that will feature Leah Stokes, who authored of the acclaimed book [Short Circuiting Policy](#), and Gabriela Sarri-Tobar, who serves as Energy Justice Campaigner for the Center for Biological Diversity. Even if you can't make the scheduled time of 1 p.m. ET on Thursday, July 22, sign-up anyway, and we will send you a recording. [REGISTER](#)

## Conference Calendar

July 26 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm EDT

[Re-Opening of Churches – Conversation for all Church Leaders](#)

July 27 @ 9:30 am - 11:00 am EDT

[Zoom Conversation for Specialized Ministers](#)

July 27 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

August 3 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

August 10 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

August 17 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

August 19 @ 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm EDT

[Live Harp Meditations for Ministers](#)

August 19 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm EDT

[Commission on Ministry Meeting](#)

View the **full calendar** of events online: <https://www.secucc.org/events/>

## Contact Us

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